

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EB-11 AID-20 DRC-01 /132 W

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R 071515Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5522

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 0846

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, MT

SUBJ: TALKS ON CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

REF: VALLETTA 0755

1. GOVERNOR GENERAL MAMO INFORMED AMBASSADOR MAY 7 THAT HE HAS RECENTLY PRESIDED OVER TWO MEETINGS BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF LABOR AND NATIONALIST PARTIES IN EFFORT TO FIND COMMON APPROACH TO CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES. MAMO SAID HE HAD PRIME MINISTER'S BLESSING FOR TALKS, AND BOTH SIDES HAVE BEEN COOPERATIVE IN KEEPING THE DISCUSSIONS PRIVATE.

2. ON SPECIFIC ISSUES, MAMO SAID THAT VOTING AGE AND CONSTITUTIONAL COURT ISSUES HAVE BEEN ESSENTIALLY AGREED AND PUT ASIDE. QUESTION OF EXPROPRIATION AND COMPENSATION, WHICH WE HAD UNDERSTOOD WAS ONE OF MINTOFF'S TARGETS, HAS NOT COME UP, AND MAMO HOPES IT WILL NOT. ROLE OF THE CHURCH, MUCH AGITATED BY LABOR PUBLIC SPEAKERS, HAS EVIDENTLY NOT BEEN SERIOUSLY DISCUSSED MAMO ALSO BELIEVES THAT ELECTORAL REFORM IS A LABOR PARTY GOAL, BUT IN WHAT WAY IS NOT YET CLEAR.

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3. AMBASSADOR QUESTIONED WHETHER MINTOFF HAS IN FACT CONFIDED TO LABOR PARTY MEMBERS HIS FULL AND SPECIFIC INTENTIONS. MAMO AGREED THAT THIS IS THE CASE. HE SAID HE IS PLAYING A MODERATING ROLE AND TRYING TO KEEP COMMUNICATION CHANNEL OPEN IN HOPES OF PREVENTING PARTIES FROM BECOMING COMMITTED TO IRRECONCILABLE POSITIONS. HE AGREED THAT PUBLIC RHETORIC IS STILL SOMEWHAT SHRILL, BUT HE IS TRYING TO COOL THIS DOWN AS WELL. ONE INTERESTING COMMENT FROM MAMO WAS THAT BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT ANY CHANGES (PRESUMABLY OF THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM) WILL NOT TAKE EFFECT UNTIL AFTER THE NEXT ELECTIONS.

4. COMMENT: MAMO HAS A STRONG PERSONAL INTEREST IN AN AGREEMENT, SINCE ANY LABOR EFFORT TO AMEND CONSTITUTION WITHOUT A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY WILL PUT HIM SQUARELY ON THE SPOT. HE WOULD EITHER HAVE TO ASSENT TO AN UNCONSTITUTIONAL ACT OR REFUSE AND RESIGN.GETZ

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 MAY 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GarlanWA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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